

Urban District of Consett.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

JOHN G. WALKER,

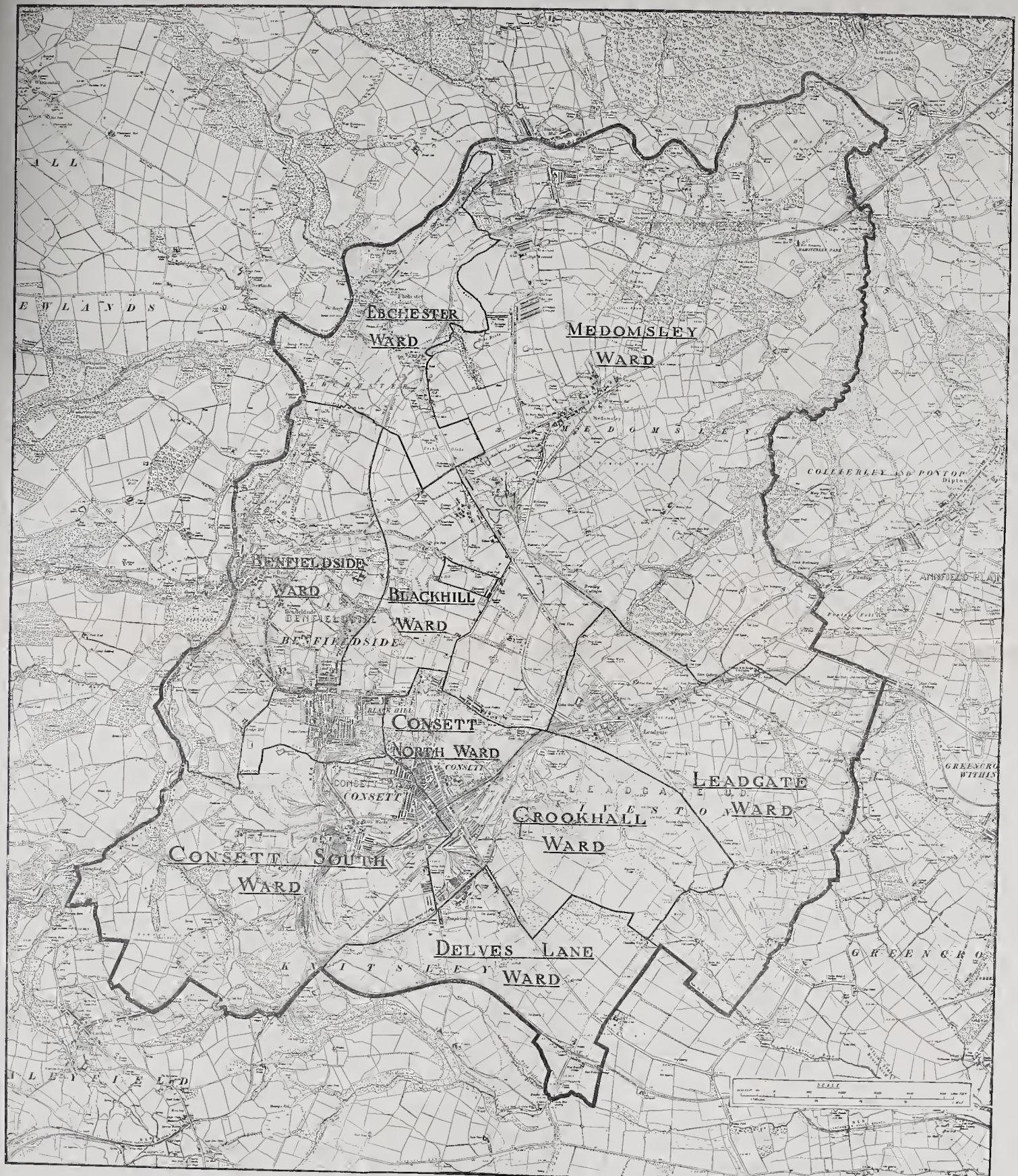
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CONSETT: •

Derwent Press Limited, Front Street.

1937.

MAP OF NEW CONSETT URBAN AREA.



*Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map,
with the sanction of the Controller of H.M.
Stationery Office.*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of Consett Urban District during 1936. The "Vital Statistics" show a fall in the Crude Death-rate and the lowest Infant Mortality Rate on record. The Birth-rate is also one of the lowest recorded. The presence of Diphtheria throughout the year has increased the infectious diseases and much anxious work has been involved in the search for "carriers," examining suspects and enquiries in connection with this matter.

Preparations for the change over to the new conditions operating from April 1st, 1937, and in connection with the proposed new Central Isolation Hospital have made the year an exceptionally strenuous one, and my best thanks to all Members of the Council, their Officials and Staff are gratefully tendered. If the "New Authority" encourages Public Health Activities as did the old one, we can anticipate further progress in the future.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

Area in Acres	1503
Population (Census 1921)	12149
Population (Census 1931)	12251
Population (estimated by the Registrar-General Resident Population Mid-Year 1936) ...	12,640
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1936) according to rate-books	3152
Unreduced Rateable Value	£80,432
Reduced Rateable Value	£60,855
Sum represented by a penny rate	£226
Births during 1936 ... 244 Birth-rate ...	19·3
Deaths during 1936 ... 163 Crude Death-rate	12·9
Infantile Mortality Rate, 1936	45
Tuberculosis Death-rate, 1936	1·1
Pulmonary ... 0·88 Non-Pulmonary ...	0·22

AMALGAMATION.—This much discussed project will be in operation by the time this report is circulated. The new Consett Urban District created by the operation of the Local Government Act of 1929 consists of the former Urban Districts of Consett, Benfieldside and Leadgate, together with the Parishes of Medomsley and Ebchester, and part of the Parish of Knitsley which were formerly contained in the Rural District of Lanchester. This combination of Districts into the new Consett undoubtedly in my view makes a much improved unit of Local Government so far as Public Health Work is concerned and comes appropriately at a time when the staple industries of the District are enjoying a long desired improvement.

I am one of those with optimistic views of future progress, and it only remains with the newly constituted Sanitary Authority to co-operate with the permanent officers for the general improvement of the Area in its Social, Economic and Hygienic aspects, providing the greatest good for the greatest number.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—A further decrease in the Unemployment figures and improvement in the main local industries occurred during 1936. These industries are Iron and Steel production, Coal Mining and its associated by-products. One of the grave

disadvantages of a one industry area is that any depression in that industry affects the whole area, and every effort should be made to attract other industries to the District.

The most cordial relationship and interchange of views is maintained between your Health Department and other departments official and voluntary with Social Activities in the District. Our appreciation of the assistance of the Officers of the local branch of the Ministry of Labour, the Unemployment Assistance Board and the Durham County Public Assistance Committee is gratefully acknowledged. The work of the Nursing Association, the Ambulance Brigades, the Social Service Committee, the Toc H movement, the Hospital Appeals and Auxiliary Committees and the Boys' Club are sufficient indication of the helpful Public Spirit that exists in this community and their part in the general well-being of the District is appreciated.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRESS IN CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT 1921—1936.

It is fairly well known that progress in Public Health matters is generally a gradual process and lacks in many cases spectacular and immediate results. The fact however remains that Preventive Medicine has made great strides and the present and future generations are able to lead happier and healthier lives than those of the past.

Although Vital Statistics over comparatively small areas and periods are misleading if only one year is compared with another, they are valuable as a means of comparison if averages of say five years or more are taken. The following figures give the averages of 1921-1925, 1926-1930 and 1931-1936 for comparison:—

		1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-36.
Birth-rate	... ..	29	21'6	19'4
Death-rate	... ..	14 6	12'1	12'4
Zymotic death-rate	... ..	1'01	0'66	0'68
Infantile Mortality Rate	... ..	112	84	72

The most noticeable features are the fall in the birth-rate, the fall in the death-rate and the remarkable drop in the infant mortality rate. The average Zymotic death-rate remains the same during the last two periods, as the savings in respect of Diarrhoea etc. have been offset in recent years by the losses in connection with Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. Regarded as a statement of account the gains far outweigh the losses.

HOUSING.—In 1921 the number of occupied houses was 2,454, these had increased by 1936 to 3,152 during which period a large number (291) houses have been demolished.

The Council have provided 822 houses during this period and private owners a further 289. This, whilst not fulfilling the demand, is certainly an improvement and further progress is anticipated in this direction.

Complete inspections have been made under the Slum Clearance and Overcrowding Acts and it is proposed to press forward the claims for further houses to deal with the latter in particular. The actual 'unfit and not capable of being made fit at a reasonable cost' type of house has largely disappeared in the old area, although it would appear at first sight that the problem arises again in the new district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

			1925.	1936.
Water Closets	...	...	2,008	3,585
Ash Closets	...	...	624	46
Ashpit Privies	...	...	316	21
Pail Closets	...	...	6	Nil

Great improvements have been effected in this connection and of the 67 remaining of the conservancy type, most are used for refuse only, water closets being provided inside the premises. No doubt the improved infant mortality rates and the fall in diarrhoeal diseases is largely due to this sanitary improvement, and any expense involved has ample compensations.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.—This work is carried out in a more rigorous manner than in earlier days and as a result the standard not only of quality but of cleanliness has been raised.

MILK.—Excellent work has been performed both here in neighbouring Districts from which the bulk of our milk supplies are received, and the standard of cleanliness was never better than at the present time.

GENERAL.—Progress has been made in making up streets, improving road surfaces, in regard to Sanitary arrangements in factories and shops, provision of recreation facilities, and in numerous other directions all having some bearing on the Health of the District, and whilst not occurring as rapidly as one could wish, there is no doubt that progress has been made.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	237	127	110	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 19'3.
	{ Illegitimate	7	5	2	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	12	8	4	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 46'8.
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Deaths	...	163	81	82	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12'9.

Deaths from puerperal causes 2
 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 7'8
 No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis, 1 death.
 No. 30. Other Puerperal causes, 1 death.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	45'0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births ..	...	...	42'1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	142'8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	..	3

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were prevalent during the early and late months of the year and towards the close Mumps and Measles became epidemic.

Apart from the accident risks associated with local industries these do not appear to have any prejudicial influence on health.

Apart from the high zymotic death-rate which is dealt with elsewhere, there was no excessive mortality during the year.

(a) POPULATION.—The estimated population at mid-year 1936 was 12,640. This figure is supplied by the Registrar General and is an increase of 280 on the previous figure. There is every reason to believe that the present figure is greatly in excess of this owing to the influx of newcomers due to improved industrial conditions.

(b) LIVE BIRTHS.—Birth rate. There were 244 live births during 1936 compared with 256 during 1935. In common with the rest of the Country this rate has been steadily falling during the last fifty years. The birth-rate was 19.3 per 1,000 population compared with 14.8 for England and Wales and 17.0 for the administrative County.

The following table shows the number of births and birth-rates for your District since 1921 compared with those of England and Wales and the administrative County.

Year.	No. of Live Births.	BIRTH-RATE.		
		Consett District.	England and Wales.	Administra- tive County.
1921	383	31.5	22.4	29.8
1922	321	25.5	20.6	25.9
1923	383	33.3	19.7	25.7
1924	369	28.1	18.8	25.4
1925	348	26.6	18.3	23.8
1926	323	23.4	17.8	22.9
1927	300	21.5	16.7	19.8
1928	304	23.7	16.7	20.1
1929	249	19.5	16.3	19.8
1930	247	20.2	16.3	20.7
1931	251	20.3	15.8	19.6
1932	256	20.6	15.3	19.0
1933	216	17.5	14.4	17.5
1934	224	18.2	14.8	17.6
1935	256	20.7	14.7	17.2
1936	244	19.3	14.8	17.0

(c) STILL-BIRTHS.—There were twelve still-births during 1936 being two less than in the previous year. This rate was 46.8 per 1,000 total births compared with 51.8 last year. This rate expressed per 1,000 population is 0.94 compared with 0.61 for England and Wales.

(d) SEX DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.—There were 127 male babies and 110 female babies the ratio being 1,000 males to 866 females.

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of
Mortality, Maternal Death-Rates, and
Case-rates for certain Infectious
Diseases in the year 1936.

England and Wales, London
122 Great Towns and 143
Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	122 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	143 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Consett Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
BIRTHS :					
Live	14· 8	14· 9	15· 0	13· 6	19· 3
Still	0·61	0·67	0·64	0·53	0·94
DEATHS :					
All Causes	12· 1	12· 3	11· 5	12· 5	12· 9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever)	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·01	0·0
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·07	0·09	0·04	0·14	0·0
Scarlet fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·15
Whooping Cough	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·06	0·15
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05	0·87
Influenza	0·14	0·14	0·15	0·14	0·07
Violence	0·52	0·45	0·39	0·52	0·71
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	2·53	2·18	2·48	2·57	4·19
Diphtheria	1·39	1·31	1·26	1·69	7·35
Enteric fever	0·06	0·05	0·06	0·06	0·00
Erysipelas	0·40	0·38	0·35	0·44	0·31
Pneumonia	1·11	1·10	0·96	0·99	0·55
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	59	63	55	66	45
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age)	5· 9	8· 2	3· 4	14· 4	12· 3
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis ..	1·40	} Not available			4· 1
Others	2·41				4· 1
Total	3·81				8· 2
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).					
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1·34	} Not available			3·9
Others	2·31				3·9
Total	3·65				7·8
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Puerperal fever ...	3·27	3·46	2·80	3·03	0·0
Puerperal pyrexia ...	9·64	9·52	7·57	11·15	3·9

(e) ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—There were seven illegitimate births and only one illegitimate death during 1936. These figures are a great improvement on those that used to prevail in former years, when the figures were usually 4 to 5 per cent of the total. This year it is 2.8 per cent.

(f) DEATHS.—Crude Death-rate. Exactly the same number of deaths occurred in 1936 as in 1935, the figure being 163. Of these 81 were males and 82 were females. This gives a death-rate of 12.9 per 1,000 population compared with 12.1 for England and Wales and 11.6 for the administrative County.

The following table gives the rates since 1921 of your District compared with England and Wales and the Administrative County.

The figure in the right-hand column is the adjusted death-rate after applying the comparability factor.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	DEATH-RATE.			Consett U.D. Adjusted Death-Rate.
		Consett District. Crude Death-Rate.	England and Wales.	Administrative County.	
1921	196	16.1	12.1	13.2	
1922	194	15.4	12.8	13.1	
1923	176	13.7	11.6	11.9	
1924	188	14.4	12.2	12.8	
1925	179	13.6	12.2	12.6	
1926	149	10.7	11.6	11.5	
1927	167	12.0	12.3	12.0	
1928	168	13.1	11.7	10.9	
1929	159	12.5	13.4	12.7	
1930	150	12.2	11.4	11.2	
1931	161	13.0	12.3	12.1	15.2
1932	155	12.5	12.0	11.6	14.6
1933	142	11.5	12.3	11.5	13.4
1934	145	11.7	11.8	11.7	13.6
1935	163	13.1	11.7	11.5	15.3
1936	163	12.9	12.1	11.6	15.0

Causes of Deaths in Consett Urban District, 1936.

Causes of Death.		Males.	Females.	Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	81	82	28 Nephritis	4	1
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	—	—	29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
2 Measles	...	—	—	30 Other Puerperal Causes...	—	1
3 Scarlet Fever	...	1	1	31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	2	2
4 Whooping Cough	...	—	2	32 Senility	2	3
5 Diphtheria	...	8	3	33 Suicide	—	1
6 Influenza	...	0	1	34 Other Violence	5	3
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	0	—	35 Other Defined Diseases	6	5
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	—	—	36 Causes Ill-defined or unknown	—	—
9 Tuberculous of Respiratory System	...	4	7	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)	—	—
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	2	1	Small-Pox	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	—	—	Poliomyelitis	—	—
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	...	—	1	Polioencephalitis	—	—
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	6	8	Deaths of Infants under 1 year—	—	—
14 Diabetes	...	—	—	Total	3	8
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c...	...	2	6	Legitimate	3	7
16 Heart Disease	...	18	25	Illegitimate	—	1
17 Aneurysm	...	—	3	LIVE BIRTHS—Total	132	112
18 Other Circulatory Diseases	...	6	3	Legitimate	127	110
19 Bronchitis	...	2	1	Illegitimate	5	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	7	2	STILLBIRTHS—Total	8	4
21 Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	—	Legitimate...	8	4
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	1	—	Illegitimate	0	0
23 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	1	2	POPULATION, Resident	...	12,640
24 Appendicitis	...	1	—			
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	...	—	—			
26 Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	...	—	1			
27 Other Digestive Diseases	...	2	1			

(g) CAUSES OF DEATH.—These appear in a detailed table elsewhere. There were :—

11	Death of Infants under one year of age	...	=	11	per cent.
1	Death from Influenza	... ..	=	0.6	„ „
14	Deaths from Tuberculosis	... ..	=	8.6	„ „
14	„ „ Cancer	... ..	=	8.6	„ „
9	„ „ Pneumonia	... ..	=	5.5	„ „
8	„ „ Cerebral Hæmorrhage	... ..	=	5.0	„ „
13	„ „ Notifiable Diseases	... ..	=	8.0	„ „
(not Tuberculosis)					
43	„ „ Heart Disease	... ..	=	24.5	„ „
5	„ „ Nephritis	... ..	=	3.0	„ „
9	„ „ Violence	... ..	=	5.5	„ „

It has been previously pointed out that the high proportion of deaths due to heart disease has to be considered with old age or other conditions being associated with the final illness preceding death.

(h) CANCER MORTALITY.—There was a considerable decrease in the number of death due to “Malignant Disease,” which was 14 compared with 21 last year. It is known that the ability to diagnose “Malignant Disease” has steadily improved since the introduction of X-rays and other methods, and it is highly probable that more accurate diagnosis has played an important part in the increased figures for Cancer deaths of recent years.

The following table compares the figures for Consett Urban District with those of England and Wales since 1921 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths from Cancer.	Percentage of Total Deaths.	Cancer Mortality per 1,000 of Population.	
			Consett U.D.	England and Wales.
1921	9	4.5	0.73	1.21
1922	13	6.6	1.03	1.22
1923	13	7.3	1.61	1.26
1924	15	8.0	1.14	1.29
1925	10	5.5	0.76	1.33
1926	15	10.0	1.08	1.36
1927	16	9.6	1.15	1.37
1928	17	10.1	1.31	1.42
1929	13	8.1	1.02	1.43
1930	14	9.0	1.14	1.45
1931	15	9.3	1.21	1.48
1932	14	9.0	1.12	1.51
1933	11	7.7	0.81	1.52
1934	18	12.4	1.46	1.56
1935	21	12.8	1.69	1.58
1936	14	8.6	1.10	

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

The seven principal epidemic diseases were responsible for 18 deaths during the year compared with 10 in the previous year.

Measles	0
Whooping Cough	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years) ...	3
Diphtheria	11
Scarlet Fever	2
"Fever" (Enteric, typhus, simple continued) ...	0
Smallpox	0
<hr/>	
	18
<hr/>	

This gives the high Zymotic death-rate of 1.42 compared with 0.80 last year. The rate for the Administrative County is 0.54. The increased rate is largely due to the increased number of deaths from Diphtheria during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

It is gratifying to record the lowest infant mortality rate that has ever occurred in the Consett Urban District. This was 45 deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births, which compared very favourably with the rate of 59 for England and Wales and 70 for the Administrative County. The actual number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 11 compared with 18 last year.

The following table gives the rates for your District compared with those of England and Wales and the Administrative County since 1921.

Year.	Births.	Deaths of Infants under one year.	Consett Urban District.	England and Wales.	Administra- tive County.
1921	383	56	143	83	109
1922	321	39	121	77	99
1923	383	36	95	69	86
1924	369	33	89	75	97
1925	348	40	114	75	101
1926	323	22	68	70	84
1927	300	21	70	69	95
1928	304	26	85	65	80
1929	249	26	101	74	94
1930	247	23	93	60	74
1931	251	19	75	66	36
1932	256	16	62	65	82
1933	216	21	97	64	82
1934	224	19	84	59	78
1935	256	18	70	57	70
1936	244	11	45	59	70

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Prematurity, Debility	3
Bronchial-Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc. ...	5
Spina-bifida	1
Gastro-enteritis	2
—	—
	11
—	—

10 of these deaths were legitimate infants.

1 only was an illegitimate infant, and there were in addition 12 still-births.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

(a) Medical Officer of Health, JOHN G. WALKER, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Offices and duties; Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the joint areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils, in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health, and Article 27 (1) of the Sanitary Officer's Order 1935.

(b) Sanitary Inspector, F. STRINGFELLOW,
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary
Inspectors.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food
Inspectors.

The appointment is whole-time and the duties are as set out in the Sanitary Officer's (outside London) Regulations 1935, in addition he is the appointed officer for the purposes of :—

The Milk and Dairies Orders.

The Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.

The Housing Act 1935, Part 1.

Public Cleansing.

The Petroleum Acts.

These appointments are subject to the approval of the Minister of Health, and 50 per cent. of the salaries are payable from County Funds.

Veterinary Officers, Food and Drugs Inspectors and Health Visitors carrying out various Public Health duties in the District are appointed and paid by the County Council.

The arrangements for Home Nursing, Laboratory Work, Isolation Hospitals and Ambulances were set out in detail in the Annual Report for 1931 and no substantial change has occurred.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER—

The water supply is under the control of the Durham County Water Board. There have been no important extensions of mains but all new houses erected have been provided with a piped supply.

No shortage was experienced and no samples were taken for analysis.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

A number of old sewers in the John Street area have been cut off and new 15 inch sewers with manholes provided in connection with the making up of new streets in this area. Ninety private drainage inspections were made and in 7 cases defective drainage was reconstructed. Plans have been prepared for the proposed improved methods of sewage disposal. When completed these new works will bring about the abolition of the existing filter beds at Crookhall and the land irrigation system at Stanefordham.

RIVERS AND STREAMS—

The storm water lagoons at Howden Dene have received regular attention. These lagoons have been the means of eliminating the pollution to the River Derwent which occurred, during storm periods, prior to their installation. Fish life in the river is now in no danger and no mortality has been noticed for a considerable period.

The Howden Dene Burn received washings from the Consett Iron Company's Slag Heaps but so far as can be ascertained no toxic water has been found which may endanger fish life or otherwise cause pollution.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

Water Closets are now in use practically throughout the area, the number of closets of each type being as follows :—

Water Closets	...	...	...	3585
Ashpit Privies	...	...	...	21
Ash Closets	...	...	...	46

During the year 47 Privies and Ash Closets were abolished as a result of demolitions of unfit properties. Water Closets were installed in all new houses erected. Of the 67 conservancy types shewn above the great bulk are in use as storage for House Refuse only, there being water closets provided inside the premises.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

No extensions were made in connection with this work, which is carried out direct with Motors fitted with covered tipping bodies.

3280 Ash Bins are cleared weekly and the remaining 129 fixed receptacles every two weeks.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

<i>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.</i>			No. of Informal Notices.	No. of Formal Notices.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Foul Conditions	...	...	1		1
Structural Defects	...	...	38	4	121
Overcrowding	...	...	107		39
Cowsheds	...	...	2		2
Slaughter Houses	...	...	9		9
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	60		49
Deposits of Refuse	...	...	8		8
Water Closets	...	...	5		5
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	6		6
Defective Drain Traps	..	...	3		3
Drainage and Other Faults...	...	...	32		32
Pigsties	...	..	2		2
Animals improperly kept	..	..	1		1
Offensive Trades	...	...	1		1
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	1		1
Other Nuisances	...	...	12		12
Totals	...	...	288	4	292

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1936, on the

1. Inspection of Factorles Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories ...	3	nil	nil
Workshops ...	21	4	nil
Workplaces ...	15	6	nil
Total ...	39	10	nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	nil	nil	nil	nil
Want of ventilation	1	1	nil	nil
Overcrowding	nil	nil	nil	nil
Want of drainage of floors	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other nuisances	5	5	nil	nil
Sanitary { Insufficient	1	1	nil	nil
Accommodation { Unsuitable or defective	3	3	nil	nil
	not separate for sexes.	nil	nil	nil
Total	10	10	nil	nil

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Sec. 108 ... Nil.

The number of Workshops on the register at the end of December 1936 is as follows :—

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	7
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	3
Boot Repairs	...	...	...	...	5
Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	...	...	6
Joiners	...	...	...	...	7
Motor Repairs	...	...	...	...	2
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	5
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	...	2
Tyre Repairs	...	...	...	...	1
Watch Repairs	...	...	...	...	3
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	43
					—

SHOPS.

40 Inspections were made and Closet accommodation was improved in 7 cases. In two shops first floor rooms occupied by families as dwellings were vacated and the rooms taken over for shop purposes. The rooms were unfit for separate habitation and in one case a closing Order was made the other improvement being carried out voluntarily by the Owner.

As was stated in my last report there are approximately 240 Shops in the area or one shop to each 13 houses.

Legal notices were served on the owners of four shops to improve the condition of the surface of the combined yard, reconstruct drainage and to provide proper and sufficient closet accommodation.

This work was carried out and a much need improvement thereby effected.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was considered necessary with reference to Industrial Smoke in the Area.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools provided in the Area.

The provision of a Public Swimming Bath would fulfil a much needed want in the District.

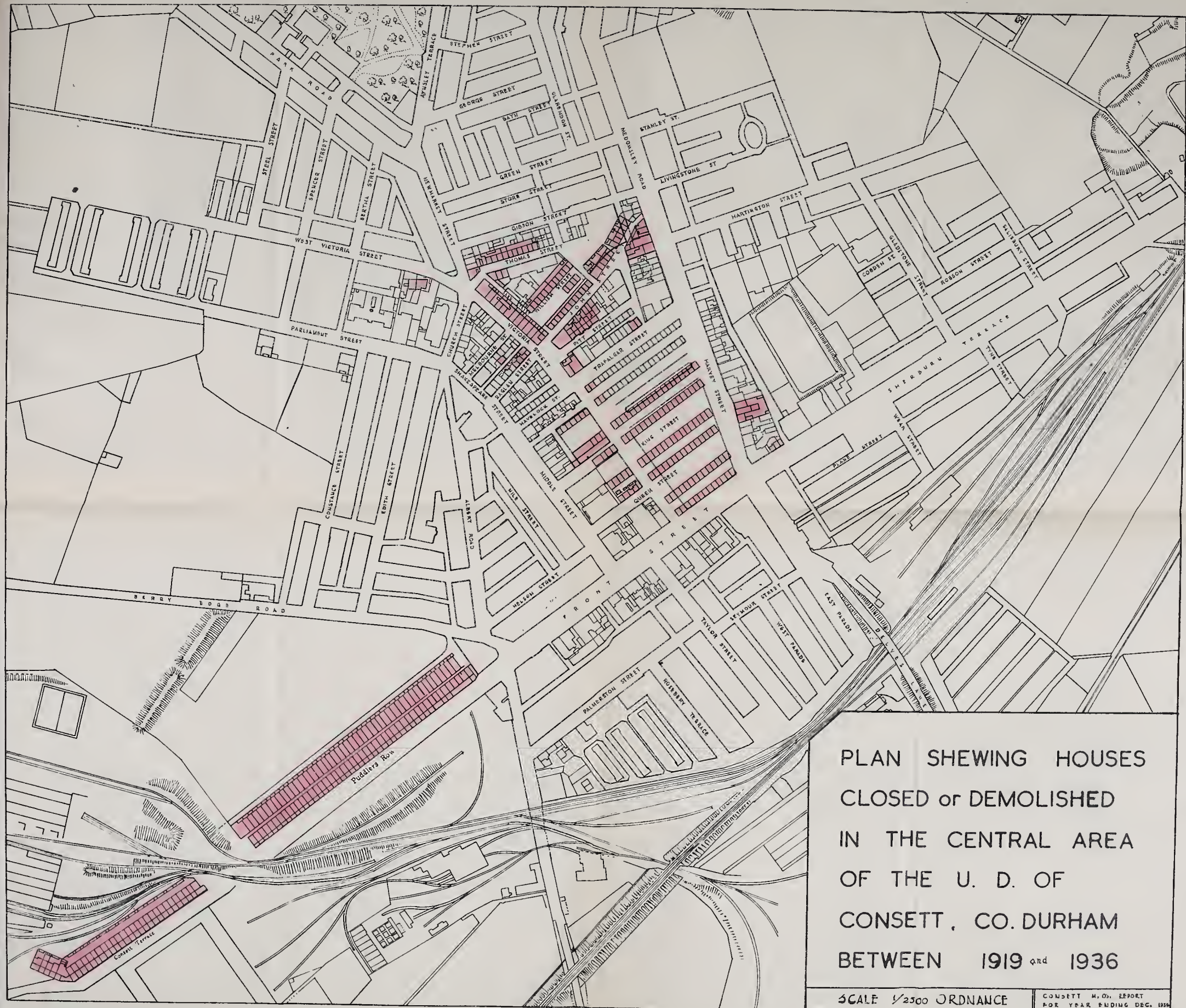
ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Only one Council house was dealt with during the year. In the case of removals to Council houses under the Housing Act, 1930 where the presence of bugs is evident or suspected, furniture, pictures, etc., are scrubbed with disinfectant, paraffin, soap and water. This method carried out by the co-operation of the tenant is very useful and with reasonable care gives good results. Unsatisfactory mattresses etc. are destroyed by burning. In dealing with infested Council houses, picture rails, skirtings and door moulds are removed and wallpaper stripped. Fumigation and cleansing on lines indicated above are carried out and repeated re-inspections made until the premises are clear of infestation. No Contractor has been engaged in connection with this work.

SCHOOLS.

The whole of the Schools in the area are provided with a public water supply and all drainage is connected to the public sewers.

Water closets are provided in all cases. No schools were closed on account of infectious disease but two were disinfected at the request of the local Education Authority.



PLAN SHEWING HOUSES
CLOSED or DEMOLISHED
IN THE CENTRAL AREA
OF THE U. D. OF
CONSETT, CO. DURHAM
BETWEEN 1919 and 1936

SCALE 1/2500 ORDNANCE

CONSETT M. O. REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 1936

HOUSING.

The following Table sets out in detail the number of unfit houses demolished and new houses erected during the post war period.

Year.	New Houses erected by the Council.	New Houses erected by Private Enterprise.	Unfit Houses Demolished.	Total Houses.
1919				2320
1920	16			2336
1921	93	9		2454
1922	69	3	2	2524
1923	24	7	7	2548
1924	10	—	20	2538
1925	146	65	97	2652
1926	29	3	10	2674
1927	71	2	8	2739
1928	—	6	4	2741
1929	12	5	3	2755
1930	—	5	40	2720
1931	64	9	5	2788
1932	58	7	23	2830
1933	120	28	1	2977
1934	Nil	37	3	3011
1935	76	60	8	3139
1936	34	43	60	3156
Totals ...	822	289	291	

As these figures shew the new houses erected by private enterprise have been offset by the number of unfit houses demolished and during this eighteen years period there has thus been a gain of 820 Houses or an average per year of 45.

It is interesting to note that for 5 years previous to the war the average annual number of new houses erected in the area was 41. A plan is attached to this report shewing in colour the former position of the various demolished properties.

Of the 822 houses erected by the Council :—

- 16 consist of Kitchen, Scullery and 4 Bedrooms.
- 288 consist of Kitchen, Scullery and 3 Bedroms.
- 342 consist of Kitchen, Scullery and 2 Bedrooms.
- 16 consist of Kitchen, Scullery and 1 Bedroom (Bungalows).
- 160 consist of Kitchen, Scullery, Parlour and 3 Bedrooms.

Included in the above figures is one house which was built as an experiment in the early days of housing. Up to date your Council have sold 23 houses. A small scheme is at present in hand for the erection of 20-Two Bedroom Bungalows and 12-Two Bedroom Houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1930.

In connection with unfit houses scheduled under the above Act the total number included to the end of the year under review was 82.

The following gives particulars of action taken :—

Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	48
Closed on undertaking by Owners	...	...	...	...	18
Withdrawn	...	...	...	...	8
Closed and later made fit by Owners	...	...	...	...	3
Closed	...	...	...	...	1
Closed awaiting demolition	...	...	...	...	3
Not dealt with	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	82
					—

Total number of persons displaced 334.

OVERCROWDING

As shewn in my last Annual Report there were 267 families living in overcrowded conditions at the survey.

All working class houses have been measured in accordance with the Act and recorded, and a full re-inspection has been made of all overcrowded houses.

To December 31st, 1936 a total of 39 such cases have been relieved 15 of these being in houses owned by your Council.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

In June the new Sherburn Park was opened and is a very valuable contribution to the health facilities of the area and is a very great and much needed improvement. The land was formerly covered by shale heaps and for more than a year an average of 60 unemployed men were found work in levelling the land. This is now laid out as a playing field and Six Tennis Courts, a Bowling Green, Putting Court and other facilities for games have been provided and in addition there are numerous attractions for children at the playground end of the Park. Together with the excellent park owned by the Consett Iron Company, a pair of lungs are thus now in being and should prove of real value in our essentially industrial area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are only two Cow Keepers in the area. The Byres and Dairies have been inspected and are well kept. No samples were taken for Bacterial Count or for tubercle bacilli.

Two supplementary licences have been issued one for the sale of Pasteurised Milk and one for Accredited Milk.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The following is a copy of the Report by the Veterinary Officer upon inspections carried out in the Consett Urban District during the year 1936 :—

Number of Visits to Cowkeepers ...	...	...	6
Number of Cows examined ...	...	...	42
General condition and type of Cows ...	...	...	Fair
General cleanliness of Cows ...	...	Fair to Good	
General conditions of sanitation ...	...	Satisfactory	
Chief methods of milk disposal ...	Retail and Wholesale		
Number of Animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order :—			
(a) Tuberculosis of the Udder or giving T.B. Milk			Nil
(b) Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	Nil
Number of cases of diseases other than Tuberculosis			2

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There are only two registered farms in this district. The general hygienic conditions are satisfactory and a fair type of dairy cow is kept. No cows were found to be suffering from clinical tuberculosis.

(Signed), J. SMITH,

9th February, 1937.

Veterinary Officer.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 10 Slaughter houses in the district which are licenced annually and these are inspected regularly during hours of slaughter. In addition 16 Butchers Shops are in use and in nearly all cases the preparation of food is carried out at these premises. Ante-mortem inspection is only carried out at the time animals are awaiting slaughter at the lairage. Post Mortem inspections are made at the Slaughter Houses and in addition periodic inspections are made of meat at the shops.

Accurate details of slaughter are not available but based on average weekly work done the animals slaughtered are approximately as follows:—

Beasts ...	...	...	988
Sheep ...	...	...	4420
Pigs ...	...	...	1350
<hr/>			
Total ...	...	...	6760

Efforts are made to examine as many animals as possible and apart from sheep about 75% of the carcasses are inspected. The whole of the Butchers in the present area are covered for loss of Cattle on account of disease by a scheme of Insurance created by the North-West Durham Butchers Association. The percentage of cows slaughtered at the present time is a very small one.

The following meat and food was found to be diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption and was destroyed:—

1 Heifer and all organs	...	...	Generalised Tuberculosis.
1 Cow and all organs	...	...	" "
1 Calf and all organs	...	...	" "
1 Bullock and all organs	...	...	Septic Conditions.
1 Pig and all organs	...	...	Pyrexia
2 Beasts Heads	...	...	Tuberculosis
8 Pigs Heads	...	...	"
9 Sets of Lungs	...	...	"
10 Livers	...	...	Cirrhosis.
1 Stone Beef	...	...	Putrefaction
19 lbs. Ham	...	...	"

(c) ADULTERATION ETC.—Apart from action taken by the Food and Drugs Inspector of the County Council in the area no action was taken locally.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1936.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	180
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	419
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	24
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	151
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	8

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	14
--	----

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :*

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
--	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 29

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 4

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 3

Houses demolished voluntarily 20

Houses demolished (John Street Clearance Area) 11

4—Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 221

2. Number of families dwelling therein ... 228

3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... 1273

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 39

2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 190

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shews the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in the Consett Urban District during the last twelve years.

Disease.	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Smallpox ...	9	4	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	83	67	77	30	18	14	15	47	231	111	47	53
Diphtheria ...	38	13	28	38	42	45	13	22	35	84	54	93
Enteric Fever (and Para-Typhoid)	—	1	—	—	—	1	20	—	1	—	2	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	1	1
Pneumonia ...	6	7	21	13	11	17	10	24	11	5	8	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	5	5	7	8	6	8	13	3	6	8	5	4
Encephalitis Lethargica...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	25	19	24	39	36	25	13	21	9	14	10	14
Totals ...	168	161	179	133	118	112	88	118	297	223	129	175

GENERAL.—

There were 175 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. This is higher than last year's figure which was 129. Practically all cases of Diphtheria and the great majority of Scarlet Fever cases are removed to hospital when there is accommodation. Frequent cases of sore throat without a rash which are undoubtedly due to streptococcal infection have been mentioned by Practitioners in the Area, often preceding cases of typical Scarlet Fever accompanied by a rash, and most probably the source of infection.

No cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year, in fact in spite of the undoubted prevalence of streptococcal infection in the district since 1933 cases of Puerperal Fever have been remarkably low.

	Total Births. Live and Still.		Scarlet Fever Notifications		Puerperal Pyrexia Notifications.		Puerperal Fever Notifications
1933 ...	223	...	231	...	2	...	0
1934 ...	242	...	111	...	0	...	0
1935 ...	270	...	47	...	1	...	1
1936 ...	256	...	54	...	1	...	0

In none of these five Puerperal cases was any connection with Scarlet Fever discovered after careful enquiries from the Doctor or others concerned.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following Table shows the numbers of cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) admitted to Hospitals during the year 1936.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	53	39	2
Diphtheria	95	94	11
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Pneumonia	7	0	9
			(all forms)

AGE OF OCCURRENCE OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASE DURING 1936.

[illegible]

PROPOSED NEW HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—

Considerable preliminary progress has been made with this scheme and the present plans provide for a modern hospital with the necessary medical and nursing staff to deal with all notifiable infectious diseases. It is proposed to utilise Langley Park Hospital for Smallpox after the new hospital has been provided.

The new building will provide for 146 patients and separate ward blocks will be available for pneumonia, scarlet fever, diphtheria, complicated cases of measles and whooping-cough. A sufficiency of single bed cubicle accommodation has been provided for, to make the possibility of cross infections arising the minimum obtainable. An up-to-date Nurses home is incorporated with the administration block with lecture and demonstration rooms so that recognition as a training school can be obtained. A well equipped laboratory and artificial sunlight apparatus and probably X-ray facilities, together with a small operating theatre are provided for in the scheme, which when complete will provide N.W. Durham with one of the most modern isolation hospitals in the Country.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were six cases more than in 1935. 53 compared with 47. Generally speaking the type was 'mild' and rapid recovery the rule. Public opinion in this District does not rapidly change and some years must elapse yet before it is realised that the necessity for Hospital treatment of **every** case is not justified by the nature of the illness nor the alleged dangers of the infection spreading to others. Much depends on the type of house the patient comes from. Fourteen of these cases were kept at home during the year and no untoward results were observed. There were two deaths in the series of 53 cases, a case mortality of 3.7 per cent.

DIPHTHERIA.—A considerable increase in the number of notifications of this disease occurred in 1936. There were 95 cases compared with 54 last year and 84 in the previous year. There is no doubt that included in this number there is a good proportion of cases of throat infection which strictly speaking is not true diphtheria but never-the-less of a sufficient degree of suspicion to warrant notification and hospital treatment. Typical cases of scarlet fever, severe tonsillitis etc., come under this heading. The number of deaths was 11 and the case mortality was 11.5 per cent., which is high, and in this connection the importance of the early administration of diphtheria anti-toxin in sufficient dosage and by a route appropriate to the case cannot be over emphasised.

USE OF DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN IN THE DISTRICT.—In the 95 cases notified it was found on enquiry that Diphtheria anti-toxin had been administered by the medical practitioner in charge prior to notification in only 31 cases, or 34 per cent. In view of the overwhelmingly important evidence of the value of this remedy early in the disease this cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The Local Authority provides this expensive remedy free of charge, and no needless restrictions operate in facilities for obtaining it. The practice of different medical practitioners is worthy of note in this connection. The following figures give the cases notified and the number having anti-toxin prior to notification in different practices :—

	Cases Notified		Number having Anti-toxin
1	38	...	3
2	22	...	14
3	17	...	11
4	15	...	1
5	3	...	2
—	—	—	—
	95		31

FATAL CASES.—In six of the eleven fatal cases anti-toxin was given prior to notification, and this use was confined to two Medical Practitioners only. It will be appreciated that the date of notification does not coincide as a rule with the date of onset of the disease and it is obvious in some at least of these fatal cases that considerable delay has occurred before a Doctor was consulted. It is impossible to over-emphasise the importance of calling in skilled attention to these cases **early** as the benefit of the anti-toxin is only at its maximum during the first 24 hours and then rapidly drops in its efficiency as time goes on. The following particulars are given in respect of the cases that died :—

Case	Age.	Date of Notification.	Date of Death.	Days in Hospital.	Anti-toxin given prior to removal.
1.	5 years	9- 1-36	17- 1-36	8	No
2.	7 years	7- 5-36	15- 5-36	8	Yes
3.	3 years	28- 8-36	3- 9-36	6	No
4.	8 years	31- 8-36	2- 9-36	2	No
5.	8 years	17- 9-36	1-10-36	14	Yes
6.	5 years	9-10-36	19-10-36	10	Yes
7.	7 years	19- 8-36	30- 8-36	11	Yes
8.	7 years	22- 8-36	31- 8-36	9	No
9.	5 years	18- 1-36	19- 1-36	1	No
10.	2 years	15-12-36	19-12-36	4	Yes
11.	4 years	25-12-36	25-12-36	Moribund not removed	Yes

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION.—The Council decided that in addition to providing the material for immunisation against Diphtheria free of charge to Medical Practitioners on request, to pay a fee of 2/6 per injection. This has met with very little response so far. The matter was not pressed by propaganda work as it was felt that pending the creation of the larger Consett, little could be done by the smaller unit alone. Now that the larger area and population is under the guidance of one Sanitary Authority the matter will be brought to their notice again with a suggestion that educational methods and publicity should be adopted in order to make the response greater.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.—Arrangements are in force throughout the area for the prompt supply of this to Practitioners requiring it. It is provided free of cost by the Local Authority and its use has already been referred to.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Fourteen new cases were notified during the year compared with ten last year. Eight of these were of the respiratory type and six of the non-respiratory type of the disease. The County Health Visitors report from time to time on the bad housing conditions of many of these cases, and when possible better housing is arranged. The general shortage of houses makes this a difficult task but certainly some priority should be given to these victims, not only for themselves but to minimise the risk of infecting those who share the same dwelling house.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.—The Tuberculosis death-rate was higher than for some years 1.1 per 1,000 population compared with 0.40 and 0.48 in the two previous years. Thirteen of the fourteen deaths occurred in notified cases—93 per cent. On the whole the notification of Tuberculosis is satisfactory throughout the district.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1936.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
15	2	1	2	1	...	2	2	...
25	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...
35	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	...
45	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
55	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
And upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	6	2	4	2	4	7	2	1

(a) CANCER.—The mortality from this disease has been dealt with elsewhere.

(b) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, was taken during the year.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.—No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and no action under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

EXAMINATION OF SPECIMENS.

The following were examined during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne :—

	Total	Positive	Negative
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria ...	132	24	108
Nasal Swabs for 'Virulence' ...	1	1	0
Blood for 'Widal' ...	3	0	3
Sputa for Tubercle ...	14	1	13

Consett Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RAINFALL, ETC., 1936.

Mr. T. Hutton, Surveyor, has kindly supplied the following :—

			Rainfall		Heaviest		No. of days	
			(inches)		Daily Fall		Snow Fell.	Rain Fell.
January	...	...	4.38	29th	day of month		7	21
February	...	...	3.90	29th	do.		5	14
March	...	...	2.79	26th	do.		2	17
April	...	...	1.76	12th	do.		6	9
May	...	...	2.31	24th	do.			15
June	...	...	3.90	3rd	do.			15
July	...	...	3.11	23rd	do.			23
August	...	...	2.02	6th	do.			10
September	...	...	3.72	3rd	do.			13
October	...	...	1.28	30th	do.	1		13
November	...	...	3.91	11th	do.			15
December	...	...	1.91	13th	do.	2		16
Total			35.01				23	181

The total rainfall of 35.01 inches is well above the average for Consett. Last year's record shows 33.74 inches.

June 3rd has the record for the wettest day, with 1.80 inches, May 24th coming next with 1.10 inches.

Snow and hail fell on 23 days, slightly less than last year's total of 27 days. Fog was observed in varying densities on 40 days, and thunder on 7 days, the most intense storm being on September 14th which had an intermittant duration of over two hours.

The driest period of the year was from August 21st to August 31st (11 days), the next being from September 16th to 23rd with 8 days.

